

Literally Speaking



NBPL Literacy Services

1000 Avocado Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (949) 717-3874

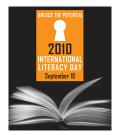
Autumn 2010

A Publication of Newport Beach Public Library Literacy Services

International Literacy Day

On September 16, approximately 150 guests attended the 5th annual International Literacy Day celebration at NBPL.

Learners from the literacy program shared a wide variety of foods from their home country while **Bristol Farms** generously donated a delicious (and beautiful) spread of fruit and cheese which



complimented the coffee service that **Peet's Coffee & Tea, Corona del Mar** provided for the event.

Board President, Nancy Thompson emceed the program, with comments by Cynthia Cowell, Library Director and Councilman Mike Henn reading the City Proclamation of

Literacy Day.

Board President Nancy Thompson and Board Member Nancy Englebrecht.



Two program learners together with volunteer tutor Bruce McKeag.



Shirin Oktaee and Houra Partovi receive proclamations of US citizenship.

Adult learner, Yana Newberg read an emotional account of her year in the program and Afsaneh Taheri Pak read her submission to *In Our Own Words*, a copy of which was distributed to all of the guests present.

After a touching speech about her mother's dedication as a tutor of the program, Rene Hoffman-Heath presented Claude Bonham, with the **2010 Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award.**

Patricia Bonham, Claude's sister, also spoke emotionally of how this moment was the realization of their family's dream for Claude.

Claude then shared the changes in his life since joining the literacy program. He thanked his family and his supervisor, Jaime, for supporting him and encouraging him.

Claude was also honored by both Congressman John

Campbell and Senator Tom Harman with a certificate of recognition.

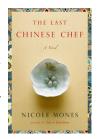
The morning concluded with a special acknowledgment of Shirin Oktaee and Houra Partovi — two newly sworn-in U.S. citizens — also by Congressman John Campbell.

It was a special day for everyone in attendance, and one not soon to be forgotten.

Save the Date

On **April 8, 2011**, Literacy Services will hold its annual fundraising luncheon featuring guest author, **Nicole Mones**.

Her most recent book, *The Last Chinese Chef*, draws on her 18 years of experience living in China. It takes you into a world of Chinese food you never knew existed and the hidden universe of one of the world's great cuisines.



Ruby's Fundraiser Night



On July 26, 2010, **Islands Restaurant** held a fundraiser night for Literacy Services. A generous amount was raised for the program thanks to the support (and appetites) of our learners, tutors and volunteers.

Our fundraisers have been so successful that we are holding another event at **Ruby's Diner** in Corona del Mar on Wednesday,

October 6. Be sure to take along your flyer!

Thank you to everyone who shows up and helps us raise funds to keep our program up and running. We do this for you and because of you!

Congratulations to
Claude Bonham,
the 2010 recipient of the
Rochelle Hoffman Memorial
Award!



"The person who makes a success of living is the one who sees his goal steadily and aims for it unswervingly."
~ Cecil B. DeMille ~

We wish to thank *IBM Corporation* for its ongoing support of Newport Beach Public Library Literacy Services.

New Tutors

We would like to welcome in our new graduating class of Tutor Training students. Your time and effort is truly appreciated!

Kathy Alexander Jason Brady Deane Bottorf Carol Cohn Maureen Gee Karri Gillette Jerry Lezama Pauline Nguyen Sean Pardee Terry Reinhold Leslie Sisson Julia Sun Jim Wharton



Learner Accomplishments

- Passing the U.S. citizenship exam
- · Getting a new job
- Passing the drivers license test in English
- Accepting Board of Directors position on an HOA

Donations are always welcome

We are grateful for the community support that we receive from local companies, foundations, and organizations, and individuals whose donations have been helping the program continue to serve the literacy needs of our community.

If you have any contacts who might be interested in supporting Literacy Services, please contact the office.

Newport Beach Public Library Literacy Services

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We are an IRS designated 501(c)(3) #93-1011706

President's Message

My Favorite Time of the Year

Autumn...one of my favorite times of the year! It's Back to School time with new teachers, a new backpack, school supplies and all the excitement that the beginning of a school year provides. The air has crispness



in it and the leaves are beginning to give us a hint of the elegant colors to come. No wait, that was a time and place long ago!!! Well it still remains in my memory as a wonderful time of the year, and one that I always looked forward to. Now I relive those memories through the eyes of our grandchildren as they prepare for the new school year, listen as they discuss the different teachers and debate the merits of each one's homeroom style. I envy their innocence and enthusiasm, and the total belief that their future, full of endless possibilities, waits just ahead.

I may no longer have to worry about who will be my teacher this year, nor need to study the list of required new supplies, but I can still enjoy the energy and anticipation of Back to School despite the timeline, the Santa Ana winds with their hot drying gusts of air that we know are coming, and the host of responsibilities that come with being an adult. Even now, fall is always that special time of year when I look forward to seeking out new interests, and even new challenges. Summer's job is to give us a chance to relax, to unwind, and be less scheduled. Autumn's role is to present us with a chance for change, a new beginning.

Let's make it a Back to School time for us as well. What new challenges lie ahead and how can we take advantage of them; what skill would we like to perfect; what class can we sign up for for a little hobby time; how can we give back to the community a bit of our precious time, no matter how small???? The opportunities are endless, starting right here in our own community. Wait, do I hear you saying "Are you crazy? I am scheduled to the max already!" I know the feeling, and if this isn't the time right now for a big project, then select something small and at the very least make it an autumn state of mind. Remember to take a deep breath, pause and look around you. The colors on most of our trees may not be changing dramatically, but the sky is bluer, and there seems to be a renewed sense of energy in the air as you go about reconnecting after summer's hiatus.

One of my new challenges for fall is to be able to master the iPad just like my four-year-old grandson. What is yours?

Best wishes!

Nancy Thompson

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Writer to Writer 2010

Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN) invites you to take part in their **Writer to Writer** annual writing challenge for adult learners.



Read or listen to a book that inspires you and then write a letter to the author. There will be cash prizes for the top 3 writers, and the top 30 will have their letters published in a book and on the SCLLN web site.

If you wish to participate in the challenge, contact the literacy office to obtain an Entry Form and a copy of the Instructions.

Deadline for all entries is December 3, 2010. Don't miss this great opportunity to challenge yourself!

Win an iPad!

SCLLN is having an opportunity drawing on October 15 to benefit their 2011 Literacy Conference. The winner will receive a

64GB iPad with WiFi.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased through the Literacy Services office.



 \sim Don't miss your chance. \sim

Literally Speaking

Literally Speaking, the newsletter of Literacy Services at the Newport Beach Public Library, is published quarterly and sponsored by corporate and private donations.

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Learner's Corner

Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart By Ata Shafiyoon

I do not know why I always cry when people sing in church. The sound of voices united seems heavenly to me (maybe like the baby elephant, I am caressing the bones). In the book "When Elephants Weep" the story of the baby elephant and his mother's bone never fails to move me.

I remember long ago when I was in grade school that I was not allowed to take exams in sixth grade. I was punished for my bad behavior. I did not go home that day but instead, went

to quite a large rose garden close to home. It was April and all roses were blooming.

It was like heaven on earth. You would hear nothing, but singing song birds. I was sobbing quietly when suddenly I heard a soft, sweet



voice of a very young girl who was talking to her God. I heard her say "Dear God, I have heard that you have created heaven and earth, beautiful mountains, trees, colorful flowers, rivers, good people, gorgeous animals but of course you know I cannot see those. You have made me blind. I am not complaining, dear God and I am satisfied with your decision. However, I have only one wish. That is if you please give me only a minute of sight so I may see the face of my mother." After I heard the blind girl, I went home forgetting my troubles and thinking of her.

The day after, I did not go to school but went to the rose garden to see the girl. Unfortunately for me she was not there. I kept going to the rose garden many days to see her, but there was no sign of the young blind girl.

That was about sixty years ago. I still remember that moment and the memory never goes away. Today when I walk in the Mason Park I remember her and her request from God. Two years ago I almost lost my sight due to an eye surgery. I was legally blind and could not drive, could not read well and needed help most of the time. Sadness and disappointment dominated my life.

On April 30 2010, NBPL Literacy Services offered their special luncheon. Sonia Nazario and Maria Amparo were guest speakers. My tutor encouraged me to attend. Their talks were about their experiences when they visited parts of Mexico. It was simply heart breaking. After we left, my tutor and I had a little discussion about what they said. Again I forgot about my troubles. Since then I do not complain about my troubles. I know now that there are many people who have more on their plate than I do. I thought again about the young blind girl and think she was an angel telling me the same thing I learned on that day of Sonia's talk.

Newport Beach Public Library Literacy Services 1000 Avocado Avenue Newport Beach, CA 92660

Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

September 20 September 20, 27 September 21 September 22 September 23, 30 September 23, 30 September 28	Mondays, 6:30 pm Mondays, 10:30 am Tuesdays, 10:15 am Wednesday, 10:00 am Thursdays, 10:00 am Thursdays, 6:30 pm Tuesday, 10:00 am	Adult Learner small talk, BIG TALK class Adult Learner Book Club Adult Learner Discussion Class Learner Network Adult Learner Life Skills Dialogs Adult Learner Conversation Class Tutor Connection
October 4, 11, 18, 25 October 4, 18 October 5, 12, 19, 26 October 6, 20, 27 October 7, 14, 21, 28 October 7, 14, 21, 28 October 15 October 13 October 20 October 26	Mondays, 10:30 am Mondays, 6:30 pm Tuesdays, 10:15 am Wednesdays, 10:00 am Thursdays, 10:00 am Thursdays, 6:30 pm Friday, 3:30 pm Wednesday, 10:00 am Wednesday, 10:00 am Tuesday, 10:00 am	Adult Learner Book Club Adult Learner small talk, BIG TALK class Adult Learner Discussion Class Adult Learner Pronunciation Workshop Adult Learner Life Skills Dialogs Adult Learner Conversation Class Families For Literacy Program Movie Talk New Learner Orientation New Tutor Orientation
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 November 1, 15 November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November 3 November 3, 17, 24 November 4, 11, 18 November 4, 11, 18 November 8 November 9, 16 November 10 November 19	Mondays, 10:30 am Mondays, 6:30 pm Tuesdays, 10:15 am Wednesday, 12:00 pm Wednesdays, 10:00 am Thursdays, 10:00 am Thursdays, 6:30 pm Monday, 10:00 am Tuesdays, 9:00 am Wednesday, 10:00 am Friday, 3:30 pm	Adult Learner Book Club Adult Learner small talk, BIG TALK class Adult Learner Discussion Class Learner Network (date subject to change) Adult Learner Pronunciation Workshop Adult Learner Life Skills Dialogs Adult Learner Conversation Class Tutor Connection (date subject to change) Tutor Training Movie Talk Families For Literacy Program

<u>Note</u>: All programs are held at the Central Library unless otherwise posted and subject to change. For more details, contact the literacy office at (949) 717-3874 or email us at literacy@newportbeachca.gov